# CITY OF ROCKVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

For August 18, 2011 MEETING NO. 7-2011

APPLICATION: HDC2012-00552

ADDRESS:

315 Baltimore Road

ACCEPTED:

8/1/11

**45 DAY LIMIT:** 

9/16/11

**OWNER:** 

Catherine McAlpine-Eig

**REQUEST:** 

Replace asphalt shingle

shingles on porch with

standing seam metal

**STAFF:** 

Robin D. Ziek



### **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

The front porch, damaged by a falling tree limb, is being repaired. Extensive decay in flooring and structural members will be repaired (maintenance work). The applicant proposes to replace the existing asphalt shingles with standing seam metal roofing. The house has metal shingles, and the standing seam metal is appropriate for the porch only.

The applicant notes that there may be original tongue-and-groove boards at the porch ceiling, currently hidden beneath the existing fiber board. Exposure of the original ceiling boards would be a step towards restoration of the front porch to its original condition.

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

## Staff recommends approval, given the following findings:

Asphalt shingles are a 20<sup>th</sup> century material that replaced a 19<sup>th</sup> century roofing material. Standing seam metal is a standard 19<sup>th</sup> century roofing material common on porches. As such, it is a compatible material for this late 19<sup>th</sup> century house. In addition, repair or replacement-in-kind of tongue and groove ceiling boards, would also meet the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* #2 ("...The removal of historic materials ..or alteration of ...spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided."); and, #9 ("New ... construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible...").

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# [DRAFT MOTION OF APPROVAL:]

Finding HDC2012-00552, for the replacement of asphalt shingles on the front porch roof with standing seam metal roofing, with the additional proposal to expose and repair, or install tongueand-groove ceiling boards instead of fiber board, in compliance with Secretary of the Interior's Standards #2 and #9, and finding no negative impact on the architectural significance of the buildings with this proposal, I move approval of the application.

## **BACKGROUND**

# **Historic Significance**

The subject property is located in the late 19th century Rockville Park subdivision adjacent to the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad (Rockville station opened in 1873). The house was built in 1895, and illustrates late Victorian architecture, with minor Colonial Revival elements, reflecting transitional design ideas of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The house is associated with three Rockville families: Rabbitt (1895-1922); Ray (1922-1957) and Calantonio (1957-2004).



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#### PREVIOUS ACTIONS

November 24, 2005: Historic District rezoning

June 19, 2006: HDC Courtesy Review

July 7, 2006: HDC approval of Certificate of Approval for proposed alterations

May 17, 2007: HDC revision to approved COA; approval of demolition of 20<sup>th</sup> century

Garage

April 29, 2008 Approvals for revised COA on rear addition

Property Area: 12,750 sf Structure Enclosed Area: 1,912 sf. Zone: R-60 HD

City of Rockville Permits Required: Certificate of Approval

#### DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT and MATERIALS:

The applicant is undertaking repairs to the front porch with "replacement in kind" for all wood materials, and removal of existing asphalt shingles and replace with standing seam metal. The existing asphalt shingles are severely deteriorated, and have a limited life span. When the house was built, asphalt shingles were not available as a roofing material. Asphalt shingles became readily available in the 1920s, although rolled asphalt roofing was available in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The use of standing seam metal on 19<sup>th</sup> century houses is typical on front porches because of the low slope of the roof. The main roof of this house, which has a steep pitch, has stamped metal shingles, which would not be suitable on the shallow pitch of a porch.

The porch ceiling is currently covered with fiber board, a 20<sup>th</sup> century material. A typical 19<sup>th</sup> century porch ceiling used narrow strip tongue-and-groove boards (often painted blue). The applicant notes that they would like to remove the fiber board and expose the wood ceiling board, to be retained if in good condition. The HDC should consider approving this change – from fiber board to tongue-and-groove ceiling boards – while noting that the HDC does not mandate change and the applicant may choose to leave the fiber board.

#### **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:**

County and State tax credits may apply to exterior maintenance, and alterations approved by the Historic District Commission.

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### **COMPLIANCE WITH GUIDELINES:**

Asphalt shingles are a 20<sup>th</sup> century material that replaced a 19<sup>th</sup> century roofing material. Standing seam metal is a standard 19<sup>th</sup> century roofing material common on porches. As such, it is a compatible material for this late 19<sup>th</sup> century house. In addition, removal of the existing fiber board porch ceiling, and repair, or replacement-in-kind, of tongue and groove ceiling boards also meets the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards* #2 ("...The removal of historic materials ..or alteration of ...spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided."); and, #9 ("New ... construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible...").

## Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (1995)

#### Standards for Rehabilitation

- 1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.
- 2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
  - 3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
  - 4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
  - 5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
  - 6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
  - 7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
- Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
  - 9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
  - 10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.



City of Rockville
Department of Community Planning and Development Services
Historic Preservation Office

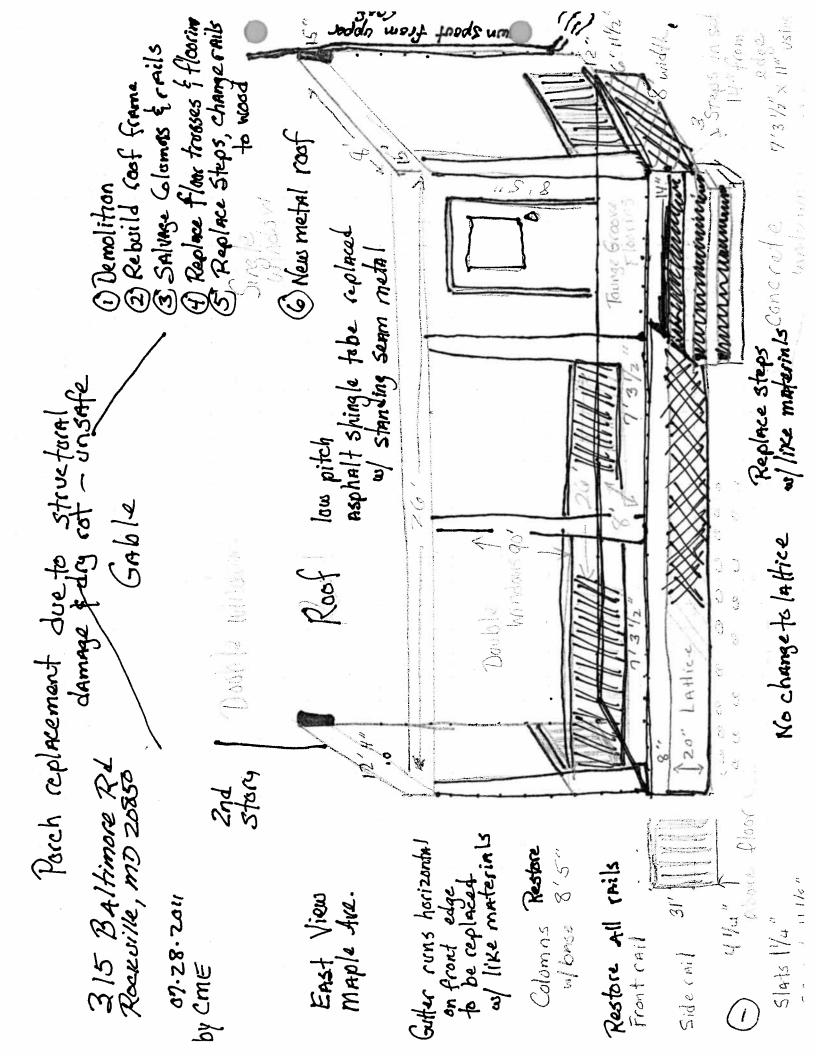
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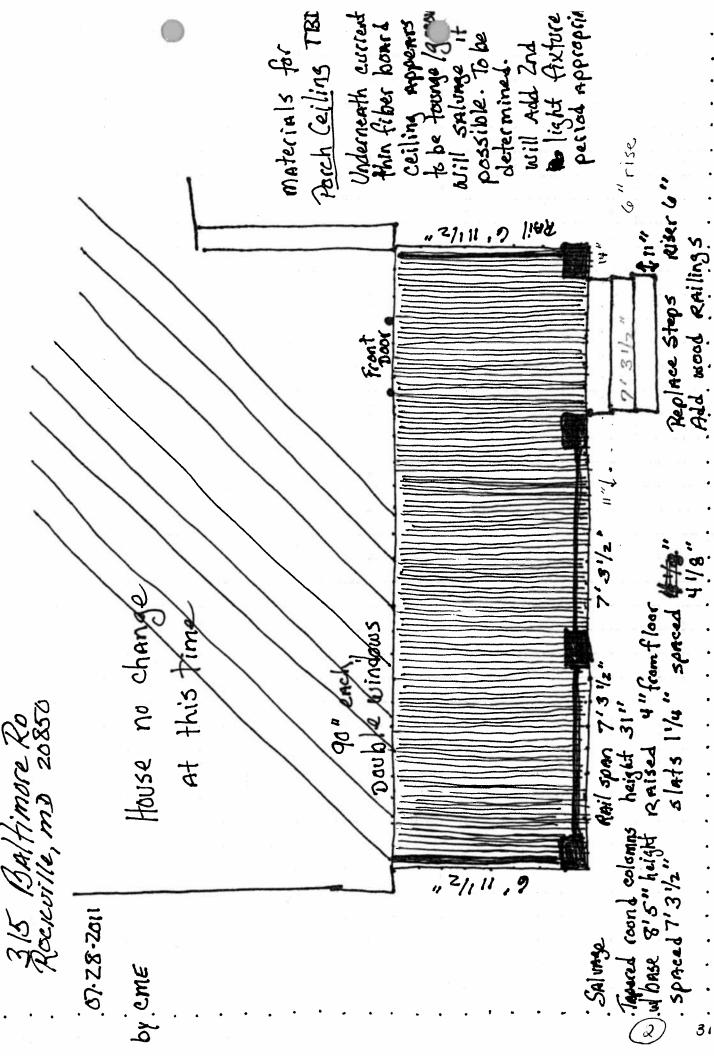


# HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION (HDC)

PROJECT IDE Application is I described belo	nereby made	esperature and a transfer of	005-0036Z District Commission of F	lockville for a Certific	cate of Approval for the property
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u Siding/Trim		J WINDOWS/DOORS		U MISCELLANEOUS	
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45 Day Review Date: Staff raviewer: PD TIEK				Date:	See reverse side

**Attachments:** Drawings of proposed project Photographs of existing conditions







Porch Roof fram



First parch view



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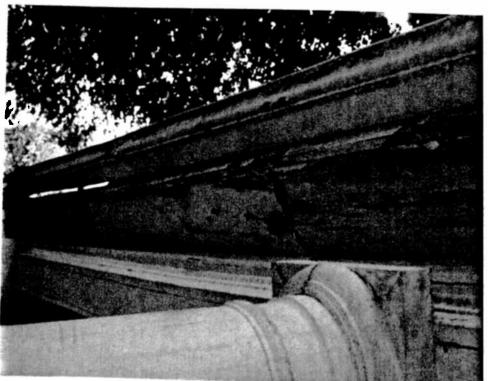
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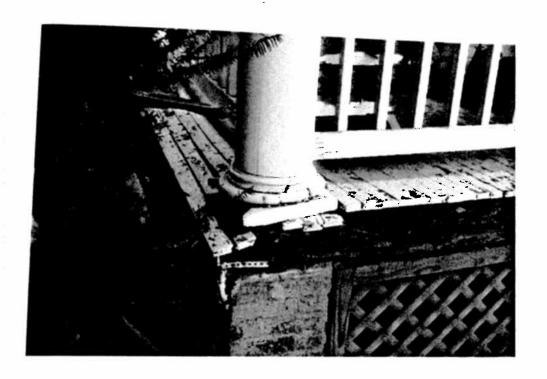
Detail-Floor beam deterioration



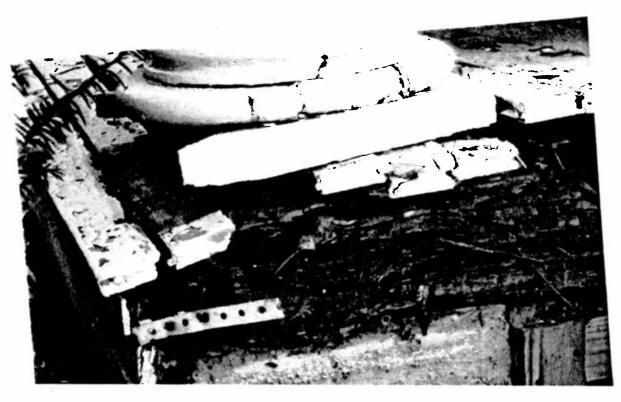
Detail-Ceiling Board deteroration



Faves



Parch column "Support"



Close-up of Rotted forch beams-"Support" under corner alumn





Underside of paves at columns